

PUBLIC SAFETY
MOTION INFORMATION TECH. & GEN. SERVICES

LAFD Fire Strategic Technology Integration "FIRST-IN" Master Plan

Los Angeles is a city that leans into the future and is home to some of the world's top technology companies, research think tanks and academic institutions. Unfortunately, City government has not been keeping pace with the latest technology, nor has it fully leveraged the knowledge base that exists in its own backyard. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is just one City agency that stands to benefit from partnering with locally based companies to explore best practices in technology integration and the testing of new devices.

Tablet devices such as the iPad are emerging technologies in the field of public safety that have already proven themselves capable of improving service delivery and generating significant efficiencies. Equally important is the increased functionality they offer to the end user, allowing first responders to seamlessly access a variety of internal and external platforms on a single device. Rank and file members of the LAFD throughout the City have not only expressed interest in adopting new technologies, but they have gone even further by developing their own apps that have already proven themselves to be extremely useful in allowing them to work smarter, safer and more productively.

The LAFD currently operates over a dozen databases, but there has never been a synchronized effort to integrate and aggregate these platforms. Many of these platforms were built in-house and have not kept pace with evolving technology. The Fire Department will soon be moving forward with millions of dollars in upgrades to its Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system and Fire Station Alerting System (FSAS), and will for the first time implement a GPS based Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. At the same time, the contract for a laptop-based Electronic Patient Care Recorder (ePCR) system will soon be up for renewal. Building on the foundation of FIRESTAT-LA, all of these systems must be seamlessly integrated, as they are critical pieces of the fire life safety continuum and enhancing service delivery to the community.

The simultaneous replacement of these systems presents a unique opportunity for the City and the LAFD to do something that has never been done before – to partner with locally based technology companies to develop a formal integration plan. Some of these firms are located within walking distance of local fire stations. There is no better time than now, and no better place than the field to beta test new technology with the Fire Department personnel who rely on it to provide life saving service to the citizens of Los Angeles every day.

I THEREFORE MOVE to instruct the Fire Department (LAFD) and the Information Technology Agency (ITA), in consultation with locally based tech companies, to present a formal Fire Strategic Technology Integration ("FIRST-IN") Master Plan that includes: 1) a platform integration strategy, 2) options for new tablet-based devices, 3) input from LAFD personnel in the field, 4) a beta testing plan, and 5) a roadmap for full implementation, with the ultimate purpose of enhancing service delivery to the community.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD and ITA present this plan before the full City Council prior to recommending the award of any contracts related to new Fire Department technology platforms and mobile devices.

PRESENTED BY:


MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:


